

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 7, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2830

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval Senate Bill No. 2830, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Caregiving."

The purpose of this bill is to effectuate the wide-ranging recommendations of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving and to appropriate funds to expand existing programs and create new programs and services for the elderly. Specifically, the bill changes the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging In Place and extends the committee until June 30, 2010. The bill instructs the executive Office on Aging to design a cash and counseling project for non-Medicaid elderly. The legislation expands the scope and funding for the Kupuna Care Program; establishes the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force, which shall cease on June 30, 2009; instructs the Executive Office on Aging to continue its respite care inventory project; and increases the rate of payment for domiciliary care homes.

This Administration recognizes and understands that many Hawaii residents struggle every day to care for aging or disabled parents, extended family members, and children. These demands can lead to time away from work and lost wages. Over the past two years, the Joint Legislative Committee on Family

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Caregiving has contracted research, conducted studies, and held hearings on these important issues.

While I share the Committee's interest in family caregiving, this bill is objectionable because it appropriates money outside of the State's balanced six-year financial plan and approved biennium budget. These funds appear to duplicate appropriations contained in Act 204 of the 2007 legislative session. I am issuing a line item veto of the \$500,000 contained in Part III of this bill. It should be noted that the Kupuna Care Program's base budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 is \$4.9 million. Act 204 of the 2007 legislative session appropriated an additional \$525,000 in general funds outside of the State budget for this program. This bill, SB 2830, would appropriate an additional \$500,000 in general funds also outside of the State's biennium budget.

Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution provides that, "[e]xcept for items appropriated to be expended by the judicial and legislative branches, the governor may veto any specific item or items in any bill which appropriates money for specific purposes by striking out or reducing the same."

Therefore, pursuant to my line item veto authority, I have stricken out the \$500,000 appropriation from section 7 at line 12 on page 12 of the bill by drawing a line through the \$500,000 appropriation out of the general fund for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the Kupuna Care Program and changing the amount to \$0.

It should be noted that the appropriation of \$289,000 in general funds contained in section 13 of the bill will become law in recognition of the importance of making a modest increase

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in the level of care payments for domiciliary care homes.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2830 with the appropriation in section 7 totaling \$500,000 in general fund appropriations for fiscal year 2008-2009 stricken out and reduced to \$0.

Respectfully,



LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii